GUIDE TO THE REPORTS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL

G. BERTRAM KERSHAW

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GUIDE TO THE REPORTS
EVIDENCE AND APPENDICES
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON
SEWAGE DISPOSAL

BY

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PREFACE

The object of preparing this synopsis has been to provide a handy reference book or guide to the subject matter of the various reports and appendices presented by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

These documents terminated with the issue of the tenth report: their total number (published under separate covers) amounts to some thirty volumes, and it is no easy matter for the reader interested in a special subject to find the particular volume he requires, and even when the volume has been found, to isolate the special section required.

In this synopsis the Commission's reports have been dealt with seriatim; the plan followed being to extract from each report, appendix, etc., all the headings and sub-headings, thus giving in condensed form the subject matter contained in them.

Opposite to each heading or sub-heading will be found the page or pages of the Report in which they occur, whilst the number of the Report is given at the top of each page.

It is hoped that this reference book may prove of service to Counsel, Engineers, Medical Officers of Health, Town Clerks and others who may have occasion to refer to the Reports of the Commission.

G. BERTRAM KERSHAW.

9, Victoria Street,
Westminster,
London, S.W.

21 MAR. 1929

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal was appointed on May 7, 1898.

Up to this time, the English Local Government Board had required, save in exceptional cases, that "any scheme of sewage disposal, for which money is to be borrowed with their sanction, should provide for the application of the sewage or effluent to an adequate area of suitable land before its discharge into a stream." It was, however, contended that in many cases the sewage could be satisfactorily purified by artificial processes and that these methods should be sanctioned where the land obtainable was either unsuitable or prohibitive in cost.

The Chairman and original members of the Commission in May, 1898, were as follows:—

Lord Iddesleigh, Chairman.
Sir Richard Thorne Thorne, K.C.B., F.R.S.
Professor Michael Foster, F.R.S.
Professor William Ramsay, F.R.S.
Major-Gen. Constantine Phipps Carey.
Dr. James Burn Russell.
Col. Thomas Walter Harding.
Mr. Thomas William Killick.
Mr. Charles Philip Cotton.

The Secretary was Mr. F. J. Willis.

The terms of reference of the Commission were:—

"I. (1) What method or methods of treating and disposing of sewage (including any liquids from any factory, or manufacturing process) may properly be adopted, consistently with due regard for the requirements of the existing law, for the protection of the public health, and for the economical and efficient discharge of the duties of Local Authorities; and

"(2) If more than one method may be so adopted, by what rules, in relation to the nature or volume of sewage, or the population to be served, or other varying circumstances or requirements, should the particular method of treatment and disposal to be adopted be determined; and

"II. To make any recommendations which may be deemed desirable with reference to the treatment and disposal of sewage."

FIRST (INTERIM) REPORT (13 pp.)

Dated July 12th, 1901.

VOL. I. [Cd. 685]. Price 2d.

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VOL. II. [Cd. 686] Price 4s. 6d., dated 1902 (573 pp.)

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SECOND REPORT (321 pp.)

Dated July 7th, 1902.

[Cd. 1178] Price 4s. 10d.

This report merely submitted various reports which had been made by officers of the Commission.

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5. Houston, Dr. A. C.—Report on the Results of the Subcutaneous Inoculation of Animals with Crude Sewage and with Effluents; together with an Account of Detection of *B. pseudo-tuberculosis* and *B. pyocyaneus* in some Samples of Sewage and of Effluents 45–59

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6. As above.
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THIRD REPORT (29 pp.).

Dated March 2, 1903.

Vol. I [Cd. 1486] Price 4½d.

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  (2) The General Protection of Sources of Water Supply;
  (3) The Collection of Facts and the Scientific Investigation of Questions of General Importance relating to the Protection of Water.

I. The Relations between Local Authorities and Manufacturers in regard to the Disposal of Manufacturing Effluents.

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Appendix B is a statement prepared by Mr. A. E. Goddard showing the Corresponding Provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876; The Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee Act, 1892; and the West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers Act, 1894, so far as they materially differ.

VOL. II. EVIDENCE (thirty-sixth to fifty-fifth days)
(321 pp.).
Dated 1903.
[Cd. 1487] Price 2s. 8d.

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Volume IV. Part I. (General Report.)

Report to the Commission on Land Treatment of Sewage, by Dr. McGowan, Dr. Houston, and Mr. G. B. Kershaw (116 pp.).

Dated 1904.

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Chemical Report, by Dr. G. McGowan, (328 pp.)
Dated 1904.
[Ed. 1886–I] Price 9*s.* 7*d.*

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Part III.

Bacteriological Report by Dr. A. C. Houston.
Dated 1904 (214 pages).
[Cd. 1886–11.] Price 5s. 3d.

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by Mr. G. B. Kershaw.

[Cd. 1886–III.], dated 1904, Price 11s. (129 pp.).

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Report to the Commission by Dr. G. McGowan, Mr. R. B. Floris, A.I.C., and Mr. R. S. Finlow, B.Sc., on Methods of Chemical Analysis as applied to Sewage and Sewage Effluents.

Dated 1904 (70 pp.).

[Cd. 1886] iv. Price 7d.

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Dated August 7th, 1908.

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Dated 1908

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Reports to the Commission on the Effects of Rainfall upon the Flow of Sewage, by Mr. Baldwin Latham and Mr. Tatton.

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They were as follows :—

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* Original Members.

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